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7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
9 AT SEATTLE

10 ALAN MILLS,

11 Plaintiff,

12 v.

13 LAUREL D. CRONK MONLUX,

14 Defendant.

CASE NO. C25-0742JLR

ORDER

15 Before the court is Defendant Laurel D. Cronk Monlux’s motion for relief from
16 the June 27, 2025 deadline to file her response to *pro se* Plaintiff Alan Mills’s motions to
17 strike “improper responses” in Ms. Monlux’s answer and to strike Ms. Monlux’s
18 affirmative defenses. (Mot. for Relief (Dkt. # 14); *see* Mot. to Strike Responses (Dkt.
19 # 11); Mot. to Strike Defenses (Dkt. # 12).) Counsel for Ms. Monlux points to the notice
20 of unavailability she filed on May 9, 2025, in which she requested that no action be noted
21 in this case between May 26, 2025, and June 20, 2025, because she was out of the office
22 and unavailable due to her wedding and honeymoon. (*See* Not. of Unavailability (Dkt.

1 # 8); Murphy Decl. (Dkt. # 15) ¶¶ 2-4.) Mr. Mills filed his motions to strike on June 12,
2 2025, within the 21-day period for a plaintiff to respond to a defendant's answer and
3 during counsel's period of unavailability. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(a)(1)(B); (*see* Answer
4 (Dkt. # 9) (filed May 23, 2025)). Ms. Monlux's counsel asks the court to extend her
5 deadline to respond to Mr. Mills's motions by 11 days to July 8, 2025, and represents that
6 Mr. Mills declined to stipulate to that extension. (*See* Mot. for Relief at 1-2.)

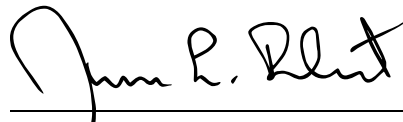
7 Mr. Mills filed a timely response to Ms. Monlux's motion in accordance with the
8 court's order setting an expedited briefing schedule. (Resp. (Dkt. # 17); *see* Min. Order
9 (Dkt. # 16).) Mr. Mills opposes Ms. Monlux's request for an 11-day extension of the
10 deadline for Ms. Monlux to respond to his motions to strike. (*See generally* Resp.) He
11 argues that Ms. Monlux has failed to show good cause justifying an extension of the
12 deadline to file a response because (1) his motions are noted for July 3, 2025, which is
13 after Ms. Monlux's attorney's period of availability; (2) Ms. Monlux's attorney should
14 have known that Mr. Mills's response to Ms. Monlux's answer would be due by June 13,
15 2025, and should have arranged for coverage while she was out of the office; (3) Ms.
16 Monlux's attorney had ample time after her return to the office on June 16, 2025, to
17 prepare responses to Mr. Mills's motions to strike; and (4) Ms. Monlux's attorney should
18 have moved for an extension on June 18, 2025, after she learned that Mr. Mills would
19 oppose a request for an extension, rather than wait until June 23 to file her motion. (*See*
20 *id.* at 3-6.)

21 The court finds that Mr. Mills's objections to Ms. Monlux's motion are well-taken
22 and therefore grants in part and denies in part Ms. Monlux's motion to extend the

1 deadline to respond to the motion. This District's Local Civil Rules provide that "[a]
2 motion for relief from a deadline should, whenever possible, be filed sufficiently in
3 advance of the deadline to allow the court to rule on the motion prior to the deadline."
4 Local Rules W.D. Wash. LCR 7(j). The court agrees with Mr. Mills that Ms. Monlux's
5 attorney should have been aware of the possibility that Mr. Mills might file a motion in
6 response to Ms. Monlux's answer and should have arranged to have another attorney in
7 her firm promptly file the motion for relief. At minimum, Ms. Monlux's attorney could
8 have filed the motion for relief from a deadline shortly after her return to the office on
9 June 16, 2025, rather than wait until June 23, 2025, just days before the response
10 deadline.

11 Therefore, for the foregoing reasons, the court GRANTS in part and DENIES in
12 part Ms. Monlux's motion for relief from a deadline (Dkt. # 14). Ms. Monlux shall file
13 her responses to Mr. Mills's pending motions by no later than **Thursday, July 3, 2025**,
14 rather than on Tuesday, July 8. Mr. Mills shall file his replies by no later than **Thursday,**
15 **July 10, 2025**. The Clerk is DIRECTED to renote Mr. Mills's motions to strike (Dkt.
16 ## 11-12) for July 10, 2025.

17 Dated this 26th day of June, 2025.

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20 JAMES L. ROBERT
21 United States District Judge
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